

DC

BATMAN

# GATES OF GOTHAM

4  
OF 5

\$2.99

SCOTT  
SNYDER  
KYLE  
HIGGINS  
DUSTIN  
NGUYEN  
DEREC  
DONOVAN

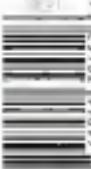


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BATMAN  
AND I HAVE THE  
NEXT TARGET. THE  
BOMBER'S GOING  
AFTER THE KANE  
BRIDGE!

WELL, ROBIN  
AND I ARE A LITTLE  
PREOCCUPIED  
FIGHTING HIM AT  
THE MOMENT--

--BUT  
THAT'S  
GOOD TO  
KNOW.

HOLD ON--  
WE'RE ON  
OUR WAY!





—AND THE  
BEGINNING OF  
THE NEXT?

NO...

AHHHH

WH-CHUNK

*My world had collapsed.*







"...AND YOU NEVER WILL BE."



RED ROBIN

ROBIN

HERE...



YOU ALL  
RIGHT?

...SHOULD  
SELL THE  
OTHER  
GUY...

THE ARCHITECT?

THAT'S WHAT  
HE CALLS HIMSELF.  
AND I DON'T THINK HIS  
TARGET IS JUST THE  
BRIDGE--IT'S THE  
ENTIRE CITY.

THE KANE  
BRIDGE IS BUILT  
INTO A RETAINING WALL  
THAT EXTENDS ALONG  
THE ENTIRE EAST SIDE  
IF HE BLOWS  
THAT--

HE'LL  
DROWN  
HALF OF  
GOTHAM

WHERE  
IS HE?

THE  
"ARCHITECT"  
GOT  
PANTS!









# BLAM



Robert Kane's shotgun had depressed my nut to the point where I could no longer move.

But the damage was already done.

NO!

My hand was still wrapped around the dog's throat when the police arrived.

LET GO!  
LET GO OF  
HIM, YOU  
BASTARD!

WHAM

HE KILLED  
HIM!  
HE KILLED  
MY SON!

I know now that Bradley was right about Gethse. She is indeed a city of the dead.

But God have mercy on any who attempt to reach them.

If you are reading this, please know, I take no pleasure in what I've done.

My only lament is that I was not able to do more.



OH NO...

"DID YOU FIND  
ANYTHING IN THERE?"

IT'S A JOURNAL FROM  
THE LATE 1800s WRITTEN BY  
NICHOLAS GRATE HIMSELF.  
IT CHRONICLES  
EVERYTHING.

HOW THEY BUILT  
THE CITY. WORKING  
WITH THE WRYNES,  
THE ELLIOT'S AND THE  
COBBLIPOTS. AND  
IN THE END—

—HOW HIS  
BROTHER WAS  
MURDERED DURING THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF THE  
KANE BRIDGE.

SO THAT'S  
WHAT THESE  
BOMBINGS  
ARE ABOUT?  
A HUNDRED-  
YEAR-OLD  
VENDETTA?

NO.  
IT'S ABOUT  
MUCH MORE  
THAN THAT.





BATMAN

"BY PROVING  
EVERYTHING HE  
BELIEVES IS A LIE."

# GATES OF GOTHAM

PART FOUR: THE GOTHAM CITY MASSACRE

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BATMAN CREATED BY

Bob Kane

NEXT:  
THE ARCHITECT REVEALED

With all the excitement and attention given to the September relaunches, an interesting question arises: Why buy DC Comics in August? After all, if everything is starting over in September, why not just wait to start reading books again? Some might think we'd be surprised by this question, but it's quite the opposite. Not only were we prepared for this situation, but we built our July and August schedule around it.

The first thing we did in preparing for September was to keep the same number of ongoing titles in our line, so that we weren't controlling more books than we needed to when the time came. To accomplish this we started restructuring our output in the beginning of the year so that when FLASHPOINT began we wouldn't be overproducing. With FLASHPOINT, we knew we had an epic, reality-shattering series (with all the attendant supporting miniseries) that stood on its own, and had a natural conclusion that fed into the September relaunch (and no, I am not giving the last issue away). With the line trimmed and FLASHPOINT up and running (pun intended), we next looked to adding something special to our lineup. I feel that we found that with the RETRO-ACTIVE series of books, which also gave a nice nod to the past creators and storylines that shaped the DC Universe before we move into the future. The RETRO-ACTIVE titles also proved to be a nice reminder that change has been a major constant for DC Comics over the years. With this part of the mix in place, our greatest concern became the ongoing series that were coming to an end, and here's where we put our maximum efforts.

There are the exciting wrap-ups to ongoing titles like **DETECTIVE** and **BATMAN INC.**. Then there are event tie-ins like **THE SEARCH FOR SWAMP THING** and **WAR OF GREEN LANTERN'S AFTERMATH** which all lead directly into the relaunch. We also have the conclusions of major storylines like "Reign of Doomsday" in **ACTION**, "Rise of Eclipso" in **JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA**, "Grounded" in **SUPERMAN** and "Odyssey" in **WONDER WOMAN**. We made sure these stories were compelling so that no one would "get up before the final reel." And finally we have the titles we knew wouldn't be coming back. Whether it was **SECRET SIX**, **BATGIRL**, or **OOC SAWAGE**, we knew that these were somebody's favorite comics and we wanted to be on point as we closed this chapter and prepared for the next. And speaking of "next": trust me when I say that the "New 52" in September will provide many big surprises and a home for all of you that have been following our characters, whether it's been for one year or fifty years.

As far as I'm concerned, I have a personal thought on why you should buy OC in August. It's because you love comics, and we make some of the best ones out there. No better reason in the world.

To be continued.  
□

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